Application No. 09/990,611

Arndt filed October 7, 2009

Reply to Office Action mailed July 7, 2009



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## Amendments to the Claims

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims: 3 the application.

## Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A topical composition comprising: about 5% to about 25% (w v) ascorbic acid; a non-toxic zinc salt; and water, wherein

the composition has a pH of about 3.5 to about 4.1;

the composition does not comprise tyrosine; and

the composition is prepared by a process comprising:

- (a) dissolving about 10% to about 50% of the ascorbic acid in water at a temperature of between about 60°C to about 90°C to provide an aqueous ascorbic acid solut on of at least 20% (w/v);
  - (b) cooling the aqueous ascorbic acid solution to below about 40°C;
- (c) combining the aqueous ascorbic acid solution with water, a non-toxic zin : salt, and ascorbic acid to provide a mixture comprising water, a non-toxic zinc salt, and about 5°, to about 25% (w/v) ascorbic acid; and
  - (d) adjusting the pH of the mixture to about 3.5 to about 4.1.
- 2. (Canceled)
- 3. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 1, wherein the composition has a 3H of about 3.7 to about 4.0 and the pH is adjusted to about 3.7 to about 4.0 in step (d).
- 4. (Original) The composition of claim 1, further comprising an anti-inflammatory compound.
- 5. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 4, wherein the anti-inflammatory compound is a sulfur-containing anti-inflammatory compound.



- 6. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 5, wherein the sulfur-containing an i-inflammatory compound is cystine, cysteine, N-acetylcysteine, glutathione, cysteamine, S-methylcysteine, or methionine.
- 7. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 4, wherein the anti-inflammatory compound is an aminosugar.
- 8. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 7, wherein the aminosugar is glucosamine, mannosamine, N-acetylmannosamine, galactosamine, glucosamine-6-phosphe e, N-acetylglucosamine, N-acetylmannosamine, or N-acetylgalactosamine.
- 9. (Canceled)
- 10. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 1, wherein the water is distilled we ser, deionized water, or distilled deionized water.
- 11. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 1, wherein the non-toxic zinc salt s present in the topical composition in an amount ranging from about 0.5% to about 5% (w/v.
- 12. (Original) The composition of claim 11, wherein the non-toxic zinc salt is zinc sulf ae.
- 13-14. (Canceled)
- 15. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein the water is distilled or deionized vater.
- 16. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 1, further comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

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17. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 15, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is alkyleneglycol, hydroxyalkylcellulose or a mixture thereof.

18-20. (Canceled)

21. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 1, further comprising a stimulant o protein synthesis.

22-23. (Canceled)

- 24. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 1, comprising about 15% to about 25% (w/v) ascorbic acid.
- 25. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 1, wherein the topical composition is an aqueous solution, a scrum, a lotion, an ointment, a cream, or a gel.

26-35. (Canceled)

- 36. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 1, comprising about 10% to about 25% (w/v) ascorbic acid.
- 37. (New) The composition of claim 1, wherein the aqueous ascorbic acid solution of sep (a) has a pH of about 2.0 to about 2.5.